REWIND

Past-ah!

Is the memory of the Septembers that went by, a sweet one for Bollywood? Or does it evoke bitter memories? Our column brings back to mind the Septembers of yore.

This month last year

– *Fiza*

– *Dhaai Akshar Prem Ke*

★ It was a month of mixed fortunes at the box-office last year. The Hrithik Roshan starrer **Fiza** opened to a bumper response all over, but its collections began sliding once the initial euphoria died down. Abhishek Bachchan's struggle for a hit continued with the flop of his third release, **Dhaai Akshar Prem Ke**.

★ Hrishikesh Mukherjee was named the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke award — the highest film honour bestowed by the government of India.

★ Yash Johar's **Kuch Kuch Hota Hai**, which marked the debut of director Karan Johar and which won the national award for the best film providing wholesome entertainment, entered its 100th combined week at the Imperial theatre (matinee), Mumbai, on September 8.

– *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*

★ Tayyab Ali of **Amar Akbar Anthony** and Natthuram of **Sharabi**, i.e veteran character actor Mukri passed away in Mumbai.

September 1987

★ Popular film writer and lyricist, Rajinder Krishan, breathed his last on September 23 at Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai. A multi-faceted writing genius, he wrote lyrics, screenplays and dialogues for over 400 films over a career spanning 35 years.

September 1989

★ G.V. Films Limited became the first film distribution company in India to go public with an initial public offering on September 20. G. Venkateswaran (GV) was its promoter as well as the chairman and managing director.

★ Music legend Hemant Kumar passed away in Calcutta on September 26, following a heart attack. Starting with **Anandmath** in 1952, Hemant Kumar scored unforgettable gems for films like **Bees Saal Baad** (which he produced himself), **Jaal**, **Anarkali** and, of course, **Nagin** (1954).

September 1990

– *Dalai Lama*

★ If you thought Shah Rukh Khan was the first to seek the Dalai Lama's blessings for his **Asoka**, wait till you read this. Way back in September 1990, producer-director O.P. Ralhan announced that the Dalai Lama would lay the foundation stone for Ashoka City, where his ambitious film, **Ashoka The Great** would be shot. The proposed US $30 million venture comprised a bilingual (Hindi-English) movie and a TV serial. The movie, which was to run into fourteen hours, was proposed to be screened in four parts at the cinema halls. The project failed to take off even after extensive pre- production work.

September 1991

★ One of the most elegant leading ladies of her times, Durga Khote, died on September 22, at the age of 86. Her memorable performances include those in **Mughal-e-Azam**, L.V. Prasad's **Dadi Maa** and **Bidaai** and her last film, **Karz**.

September 1992

★ Producer-distributor-exhibitor Tarachand Barjatya, who founded the Rajshri empire, passed away in Mumbai on 21st.

September 1994

– *Dilwale Dulhaniya...*

★ First-time director Aditya Chopra must have had no idea that he was going to end up making India's longest-running blockbuster when he began the shooting of **Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge** at Mumbai's Filmistan Studios on September 8. The film, released in October 1995, is currently in the sixth year of its uninterrupted run at Mumbai's Maratha Mandir Cinema.

– *Bandit Queen*

★ Phoolan Devi threatened to sue the Toronto Film Festival authorities to prevent the screening of Shekhar Kapur's **Bandit Queen** which was based on her life.

September 1995

★ Composer of such classics as **'Suhana safar aur yeh mausam haseen'** (**Madhumati**) and **'Kahin door jab din dhal jaaye'** (**Anand**), Salil Chowdhury died in Calcutta on the 6th.

* Aamir Khan revealed that none of his costumes in **Rangeela** were specially tailored. In order to lend authenticity to his role of a black-marketeer of cinema tickets in the film, Aamir borrowed used shirts and jeans from his

– *Rangeela*

make-up men and friends! He wore the same shoes in **Rangeela**, which he had worn years ago in **Dil**.

September 1996

★ In a bizarre incident, a Maharashtra court issued summons to Shah Rukh Khan to appear before the court. Reason: A woman named Malanbai had filed a writ, claiming that the superstar was her son who had got lost in childhood!

September 1997

★ A Mumbai metropolitan magistrate convicted actor Puru Raaj Kumar for allegedly running over a group of people sleeping on a pavement in Bandra in his car in 1994. He was let off with just a payment of a fine.

★ Music director Nadeem, the prime accused in the Gulshan Kumar murder case, was arrested by Scotland Yard in London on the 17th.

September 1999

★ Subhash Ghai's **Taal** received thunderous response at the Overseas box-office. It

– *Taal*

collected US $18,00,472 in USA-Canada in just 31 days, figuring for five consecutive weeks in the Top 60 charts. In the UK, it collected an equivalent of US $7,65,000.

— SOURCE: 'FILM INFORMATION'